

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00957 101724Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 /034 W

----- 007669

R 101618Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1656

INFO AMEMBASY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0957

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, TS

SUBJECT: RAOUF M'HENNI DISAPPEARANCE

REF: TUNIS 0829, CAIRO 1642

1. TUNIS ARABIC-LANGUAGE DAILY AL-AMAL PUBLISHED TWO-PART ARTICLE FEB 6 AND 7 ON M'HENNIN DISAPPEARANCE, BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH UNIDENTIFIED LIBYAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AND ON SPECULATION REPORTEDLY CURRENT IN TRIPOLI. THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WAS QUOTED THAT LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAD CONCLUDED M'HENNI HAD NOT BEEN KIDNAPPED AND TAKEN OUT OF COUNTRY. THIS CONCLUSION BASED ON STATEMENT THAT LIBYAN BORDERS HAD BEEN CLOSED JANUARY 18 AND 19 BECAUSE OF PRISON ESCAPE OF "MEMBER OF SEPTEMBER 1 REVOLUTION." AL-AMAL NOTED THAT "BECAUSE OF THIS STORY, IT WAS EASY TO CONNECT THE ESCAPE WITH THE KIDNAPPING OF M'HENNI."

2. AL-AMAL ALSO REPORTED THAT RAOUF M'HENNI'S FATHER-IN-LAW MOHAMED EL GHARBI WAS RECEIVED FEBRUARY 2 BY LARG MININT EL HAMADI, WHO CONFIRMED TO EL GHARBI THAT "LIBYAN GOVERNMENT REGRETTED THAT RAOUF HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED ON LIBYAN SOIL."

3. IN ADDITION TO THESE ITEMS, THE AL-AMAL STORY TREATED AT LENGTH THE RELATIONSHIP OF "CHAWKI," AN EX-TRIPOLI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 00957 101724Z

CENTRAL BANK EMPLOYEE, WITH M'HENNI. ACCORDING TO AL-AMAL,

"CHAWKI" WAS INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL TRANSFER OF CURRENCY TO SWISS BANKS FOR THE BENEFIT OF M'HENNI AND "LIBYAN AUTHORITIES." "CHAWKI" WAS CAUGHT, TRIED, AND IMPRISONED FOR HIS OFFENSES BUT LATER FREED. HE ATTEMPTED TO VISIT M'HENNI IN TUNISIA BUT WAS REBUFFED. IN RECOUNTING STORY, AL-AMAL CONJECTURED THAT "CHAWKI" WOULD HAVE SOUGHT REVENGE AGAINST M'HENNI.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT M'HENNI FAMILY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION IT BELIEVES TO BE ACCURATE THAT RAOUF IS IN HANDS OF LARG AND UNHARMED. ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMATION, LARG WAS EXPECTING TO EXCHANGE M'HENNI FOR A LIBYAN EXILE RESIDING IN TUNISIA.

5. COMMENT: UNTIL RECENTLY, THE MOST PROMINENT LIBYAN EXILE IN TUNISIA WAS EX-RCC MEMBER OMAR MUHAYSHI. IF INDEED THE LARG HOPED TO TRADE M'HENNI FOR HIM, THE GOT ENDED THOSE HOPES BY FACILITATING HIS TRANSFER TO CAIRO. (HOWEVER WE BELIEVE THAT TRANSFER, IN THE WORKS FOR AT LEAST SOME WEEKS, WAS NOT OCCASIONED BY M'HENNI'S DISAPPEARANCE.) ARREST OF TUNISIANS IN LIBYA UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES IS NOT, WE UNDERSTAND, AN UNCOMMON OCCURRENCE. MANY ARE APPARENTLY RELEASED LATER AFTER LARG'S SECURITY PURPOSES ARE SERVED. WELL INFORMED TUNISIANS ARE NOW TENDING TO VIEW M'HENNI DISAPPEARANCE IN THIS LIGHT. END COMMENT.
SEELYE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, KIDNAPPING, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS00957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760051-0433
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760262/aaaacckf.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TUNIS 829, 76 CAIRO 1642
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAOUF M'HENNI DISAPPEARANCE
TAGS: PFOR, LY, TS, (M'HENNI, RAOUF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006